

What is claimed is:

[c01] A communications system comprising:

a communications dataserer communicating with a communications network, the communications dataserer storing a timed ring suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) a parameter associated with an incoming line identification signal of a first incoming communications signal, (ii) a timing parameter for suppressing an audible alert of a receiving party's communications device after the receiving party's communications device activates the audible alert to produce an initial audible alert of the first incoming communications signal, and (iii) a second call during timed ring suppression parameter for producing a second audible alert of the receiving party's communications device of a second incoming communications signal while the audible alert of the receiving party's communications device is suppressed for the first incoming communications signal; and

a timed ring suppression application communicating with at least one of the communications network, the communications dataserer, and the receiving party's communications device, the timed ring suppression application generating a timed ring suppression signal, the timed ring suppression signal for suppressing subsequent audible alerts of the first incoming communications signal according to the timed ring suppression profile, the timed ring suppression signal further for activating the audible alert of a second incoming communications signal according to the timed ring suppression profile while the audible alert of the receiving party's communications device is suppressed for the first incoming communications signal.

[c02] The system of claim 1, wherein the communications network comprises at least one of a public switched telephone network, a mobile switching telephone communications network, and a satellite communications network.

[c03] The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving party's communications device comprises at least one of the following:

- a POTS phone,
- a wireless communications device,
- a mobile phone,
- a wireless phone,
- a WAP phone,
- a satellite phone
- a computer,
- a modem,
- a pager,
- a digital music device,
- a digital recording device,
- a personal digital assistant,
- an interactive television,
- a digital signal processor, and
- a Global Positioning System device.

[c04] The system of claim 1, the communications network further comprising a data network having a timed ring suppression interface via at least one of an internet, an intranet, or an extranet.

[c05] The system of claim 1, wherein the timing parameter ranges from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.

[c06] The system of claim 1, wherein the communications datasever facilitates timed ring suppression services comprising at least one of (i) a billing feature for communication of the timed ring suppression signal over the communications network, (ii) a schedule preference that enables timed ring suppression for times of day and days of week, (iii)

a deactivate schedule preference that disables timed ring suppression for times of day and days of week, (iv) an identification and authentication feature for the receiving party's communications device, (v) a memory service for data stored with the timed ring suppression signal, and (vi) a configuration preference for the receiving party's communications device.

- [c07] The system of claim 1, wherein timed ring suppression profile further comprises at least one of (i) an identifier of a calling party, (ii) a caller control feature to disable timed ring suppression, (iii) an identifier of the calling party's communications device, (iv) a schedule parameter to enable selective timed ring suppression for a scheduled time of day and day of week, and (v) a configuration parameter to enable timed ring suppression for the receiving party's communications device.
- [c08] The system of claim 7, the timed ring suppression profile is further associated with at least one of the first incoming communications signal, the second incoming communications signal, and an outgoing communications signal.
- [c09] A timed ring suppression system, comprising:
- a first switch communicating with a first calling party's communications device, the first calling party's communications device transmitting a first incoming communications signal to a communications network;
 - a second switch communicating with a second calling party's communications device, the second calling party's communications device transmitting a second incoming communications signal to the communications network;
 - the communications network operable to process an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal of the first incoming communications signal to generate a timed ring suppression signal and operable to transmit the incoming communications signal and the timed ring suppression signal to a third switch, the communications network further operable to process an ICLID signal of the second

communications signal to supplant the timed ring suppression signal associated with the ICLID signal of the first incoming communication and to transmit the second incoming communication signal and the supplanted timed ring suppression signal to the third switch; and

the third switch communicating at least one of the first incoming communications signal, the timed ring suppression signal, the second incoming communications signal, and the supplanted timed ring suppression signal to a receiving party's communications device, the third switch processing the timed ring suppression signal to suppress a ringer of the receiving party's communications device after the receiving party's communications device activates the ringer to produce an initial audible alert of the first incoming communications signal such that subsequent audible alerts of the first incoming communications signal are suppressed according to a timing parameter, the third switch further processing the supplanted timed ring suppression signal to activate a ringer of the receiving party's communications device to produce an audible alert of the second incoming communications signal.

[c10] A timed ring suppression system, comprising:

a telecommunications server for processing a first incoming communication, the first incoming communication from a first calling telephone number to a called telephone number associated with a receiving party's communications device, the first incoming communication comprising an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal, the telecommunications server also processing a timed ring suppression signal associated with at least one of the called telephone number and the ICLID signal of the first calling communications device, the timed ring suppression signal for suppressing a ringer of the receiving party's communications device after the receiving party's communications device activates the ringer to produce an initial audible alert of the telephone call such that subsequent audible alerts are suppressed according to a timing parameter, the telecommunications server further for processing

a second incoming communication, the second incoming communication from a second calling telephone number to the called telephone number, the second incoming communication comprising a second incoming line identification (ICLID) signal, the telecommunications server also processing a supplanted timed ring suppression signal for the called telephone number, the supplanted timed ring suppression signal associated with at least one of the ICLID signal of the second calling communications device and the timed ring suppression signal, the supplanted timed ring suppression signal for activating the ringer of the receiving party's communications device to produce an audible alert of the second incoming communication while the audible alert of the first incoming communication is suppressed.

[c11] The system of claim 10, wherein the timing parameter ranges from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.

[c12] The system of claim 10, wherein the timing parameter is greater than two minutes.

[c13] A method for timed ring suppression, comprising the steps of:

processing a first incoming communications signal from a first calling party's communications device to a receiving party's communications device;

associating an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal with the first incoming communications signal;

associating a timed ring suppression profile with the ICLID signal of the first incoming communications signal, the timed ring suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) an identifier of a calling party, (ii) a communications address associated with the first calling party's communications device, (iii) an identifier of a calling party's communications device, (iv) a timing parameter for suppressing a ringer of the receiving party's communications device after the receiving party's communications device receives the first incoming communications signal and after

the receiving party's communications device activates the ringer to produce an initial audible alert;

generating a timed ring suppression signal, the timed ring suppression signal operable to suppress subsequent audible alerts of the first incoming communications signal according to the timing parameter;

processing a second incoming communications signal from a second calling party's communications device to the receiving party's communications device;

associating an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal with the second incoming communications signal;

associating the timed ring suppression profile with the ICLID signal of the second communications signal, the supplanted timed ring suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) an identifier of a second calling party, (ii) a communications address associated with the second calling party's communications device, (iii) an identifier of a second calling party's communications device, (iv) an alert preference for notifying the receiving party's communications device of the second incoming communications signal while the ringer is suppressed according to the timing parameter for notification of the first incoming communications signal; and

generating a supplanted timed ring suppression signal, the supplanted timed ring suppression signal operable to activate an audible alert of the second incoming communications signal while the ringer is suppressed according to the timing parameter for notification of the first incoming communications signal.

[c14] The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

communicating at least one of the first incoming communications signal, the second incoming communications signal, the timed ring suppression signal, and the supplanted timed ring suppression signal to the receiving party's communications device;

allowing the ringer of the receiving party's communications device to produce an initial audible alert;

suppressing subsequent audible alerts of the ringer according to the timing parameter for notification of the first incoming communications signal; and

allowing the ringer of the receiving party's communications device to produce an audible alert of the second incoming communications signal according to the supplanted timed ring suppression signal.

[c15] The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

communicating data associated with at least one of the first incoming communications signal, the second incoming communications signal, the timed ring suppression signal, and the supplanted timed ring suppression signal.

[c16] The method of claim 13, wherein the timing parameter ranges from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.

[c17] The method of claim 13, wherein the timing parameter is greater than two minutes.

[c18] A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

a timed ring suppression program stored on the computer-readable medium, the timed ring suppression program producing an alert of a secondary incoming communications signal to a communications device while a first incoming communications signal to the communications device is timed ring suppressed.